

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to a viewing audience.

NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, November is National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month. And as this month comes to a close, I want to draw attention to H.R. 1897, the Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act.

With over 5 million Americans suffering from this degenerative disease of the brain, Alzheimer's is the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States, and it's important that we find a cure, and work to find a cure, to ease the suffering of those who are affected as well as their families.

Mr. Speaker, the Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act would encourage the development of public-private partnerships with universities, pharmaceutical companies, biotech firms, and help them pursue the development of Alzheimer's treatments.

As a cosponsor of this legislation, the Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act, I do ask my colleagues, whether you have a loved one affected by this disease or not, to sign on as a cosponsor of this legislation so we can find a cure to this terrible disease.

AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM

(Mr. WOODALL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WOODALL. We have just gotten back from Thanksgiving, a uniquely American holiday. We're grateful for all of the blessings that we have, blessings that come from God the Father and blessings that come from having won the birth lottery and being born an American.

As I watch the challenges that are going on around the globe, Mr. Speaker—I look at the challenges in Europe, I look at the challenges in Africa, I look at the challenges in Asia—we need to be proud of American exceptionalism. We need to focus on those things that exist here and here alone. Mr. Speaker, in the coming weeks with the challenges that we are going to face, let us not look to nations around the world and see how they are doing it. Let's look to those values and principles that have made this country great for over 200 years, and let's double down on those.

□ 1920

JOBS FOR AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 5, 2011, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, it's good to be back, and I hope all of my colleagues had as enjoyable a Thanksgiving as I did with my family and with our constituents back in our districts.

We have much to be thankful for. After all, this is America, and this has always been the place of dreams. This is America. It's always been the place where people have found opportunity; where, whatever they wanted to do, they could achieve it; and it's still that America today.

But it's up to us, in the third year of this recession, to restore the American Dream, and there are ways that we can do it. And tonight, together with my colleagues who will soon be joining me, we will talk about various ways in which the Democrats in this House will and have made numerous proposals to restore the American Dream.

I was out in the district for five of the days that we were gone, talking to people. In fact, one fellow who has a book binding company—a man who's 85 years old and is about to retire and turn that company over to his employees—was talking about the enormous strength of this Nation, and he was sharing the story of himself and his employees and the way in which they came here. And many struggled from very bad situations in other countries, but they came here with optimism. They came here with a true belief that in America you can make it, that if you follow the rules, if you work hard, you can make it. You can have a good life. You can take care of your family.

Unfortunately, for all too many Americans, that's not the case today. So restoring the American Dream is our task, and we can do it.

The President, more than 2 months ago, proposed the American Jobs Act, a proposal that would put 2 to 3 million Americans back to work immediately. And tonight, on the other side of this Nation's Capitol, the U.S. Senate is debating a portion of that American Jobs Act, a portion of it that is a very, very significant tax cut for men and women that are working. Their Social Security payments would be reduced by 50 percent. No longer would they pay 6.2 percent of their wages into the Social Security fund. They would pay 3.1 percent—and for their employers, the same reduction—providing a very powerful incentive for individuals to have money in their pockets, about \$1,500 a year, money in their pockets so that they could participate in buying gifts for their children. As we look to Christmas, we know there are many, many Americans that are not going to be able to do that.

Mr. Speaker, it's time for us in this House to follow the lead of the President and to give every American worker, 98 percent of Americans, a very significant tax reduction, \$1,500, by reducing that Social Security tax. And for

their employers, the same. If their employers are up to \$50 million of payroll, they can reduce, by 50 percent, their Social Security tax so that that employer has more money to hire people. That debate is going on in the U.S. Senate today. Unfortunately, here in this House, we've not been able to even take up that issue. We should, because it's part of what we must do to put Americans back to work, to give them a break.

Joining me in this discussion tonight as we talk about restoring the American Dream and about the things that we can do to make that happen is my colleague from the great State of New York (Mr. TONKO). We have often been here. We call ourselves the East-West Team.

It is good to see you back. I hope you had as good a Thanksgiving as I did, and I'm sure you worked as hard in your district as I did during those days. Please share with us, and welcome back.

Mr. TONKO. Thank you, Representative GARAMENDI, and thank you for leading us in an hour of discussion, of dialogue, that is most critical to the economic viability, to the economic comeback of America's middle class.

You talk about some of these incentives that would be addressed through a payroll tax deduction. It's all about empowering our middle class, enhancing their purchasing power, enabling us to enhance that demand out there for products that then obviously translates into job growth; because with more demand upon manufacturers in this country, with more consumer confidence, with absolute increase in purchasing power, there will be a positive outcome.

There's no denying that unemployment is driving the deficit; and if we can turn that around, if we can invest in ways that enhance the middle class, that's good for all strata, all income strata in this Nation. And what's been lost in the logic here for the majority is that the empowerment of the middle class stands to produce gains for everybody, and we saw what happened in the buildup before our entry here into the House.

In the period of the recession, it was all about borrowing, totally, the money that was necessary to spend on a tax cut for millionaires and billionaires. And some would suggest those are the job creators. But what happened was we realized 8.2 million jobs lost, and so that didn't work.

We ought not go back and revisit that formula, because it was not a formula for success. What we need here is to bring about the long overdue empowerment of the middle class. And it is working families across this country that need that assistance today; and, by the way, it works in everybody's favor.

So that's what we're promoting, and it's good to start off with that discussion; because as we move forward, investments are what it's about: investing our way to prosperity, investing

our way to opportunity, investing our way to a stronger tomorrow for all Americans. It's not going to come by cutting into situations that relieve the liability, the responsibility of those who have been most profitable here. That didn't work, and that is not going to be the formula for a comeback for most Americans.

What we need is to be sensitive to the investments in education, higher education, in sounder tax policy, reforms of tax policy, and certainly investment in research because, as we invest in research, that equals jobs, and that's still the highest priority of America's general public out there. We need jobs, and the dignity of work is what ought to be front and center for the work that we do here in public policy format or in resource advocacy so as to go forward and herald the need of the middle class.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Thank you so much.

The experiences that we have as we return to our districts and talk to our constituents and share with our families, these are the stories of life. These are the stories of real Americans that are out there. Not that we're not real. We've got a very special task as their Representatives to represent them here, and they do want jobs. They want to go back to work. We know that many of them are unable to find jobs.

In American Jobs Act, in addition to the tax issues I just talked about—and I must say we actually got something done just before the Thanksgiving recess—there was another provision, and that was for the veterans. This was part of the President's proposal that actually did become law. What he wanted to do—and we agreed with him—was to give veterans, those men and women that are out there fighting for this country in Iraq and in Afghanistan and even way back into the Vietnam War and the first Gulf War, a chance for a job. There's a very special tax provision that's totally paid for, not borrowed, that we actually voted out of here so that employers got a tax credit, which is a reduction in their taxes, for every veteran they hired—\$5,600 for an unemployed veteran or \$9,600 for a disabled veteran. I'm very, very pleased that we were able to do that for the veterans.

□ 1930

That's one very important slice of the American public that is facing unemployment; but there are many, many more. And if I can just pick up for a second on a couple of words you said; you talked about investment. In the American Jobs Act, there is a very, very important investment, and you mentioned it. It's the education investment. The President proposed that we spend about \$30 billion to keep teachers in the classroom now so that our kids would be able to continue to learn. That's the future; and if they miss a year of learning, they're going to be behind the rest of their lives. And so he

proposed that. It's still out there. It's open, and it hasn't had a chance to come forward yet. We'll see, maybe we can get that one done. That's a critical investment in our children. What's more important than our children.

Mr. TONKO. Representative GARAMENDI, as you talk about the loss in any given year where a student may lose the opportunity in the classroom because of these cuts that are significant to education, that is one measurement; but let me suggest another. We see aggressive investment going on around the world in emerging powers out there, nations competing with us in that global marketplace on clean energy, innovation, an ideas economy. An ideas economy is a robust opportunity for a sophisticated Nation like ours; but it requires commitment, commitment to investment, investment in education. We take that intellectual capacity, and we make it work.

We did that in the space race of the 1960s. President Kennedy, a rather youthful President in his time, offered a challenge to America, offered a challenge in a way that enabled us to invest in research, that enabled us to win the global race in space. That was an unleashing of technology in all told sectors of the economy and from every perspective of quality of life that was enhanced by the investments that were made.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Tonko, you were talking about the need for investment; and, indeed, in the area of education and research, critical functions, I do want to stay with that subject for a while.

Our colleague from the great State of Ohio, Ms. BETTY SUTTON, has joined us. Thank you very much for being with us this evening. I know you, too, had a family and a constituency to work with this last week, so please share with us your thoughts.

Ms. SUTTON. I thank the gentleman. Representative GARAMENDI, you have done a tremendous job in leading the way and showing the American people, because we all know that things don't have to be the way that they are. We all know that we can invest in the things that have always made our country strong, things like education, that we know not only strengthens the individual but is key to the success of our future, investing in policies that will enable us to make it in America.

And when we talk about make it in America, Representative GARAMENDI and Representative TONKO, I know that we are often talking about manufacturing. And coming from Ohio, manufacturing of course is not just a part of our past and our history. It is a strong part of what is going to make us successful in the future.

I will tell you, I'm excited because in the coming days I'll be introducing a number of bills that are all related to how we can strengthen U.S. manufacturing and bolster U.S. manufacturing for our workers and our productivity right here in the United States. So I'm

grateful to be down here with you. I can just tell you, I went out and talked to our folks and there is a growing belief that there is a better way. There's a comprehensive understanding that things have not been fair, that the deck has been stacked, and that there are still those here who are trying to protect the wealthiest and the most privileged at the expense of the others. And that's why I'm so grateful to have the chance to be here and fight alongside you and Representative TONKO and others, like Representative JACKSON LEE from Texas who has just joined us.

In the last election, we heard over and over again the refrain that people don't want a government on their back. And I agree, and I know you do, too, that people don't want a government on their back. But they do want a government on their side, and that's what we're here to make sure that they get, because that is not what they're getting with the Republican legislature as it exists today.

So carry on, Representative GARAMENDI, and count me in as somebody who supports those investments in education and in making it in America.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Well, indeed, you are carrying many pieces of legislation. I like your one—what was it, don't flush America down the drain—having to do with rebuilding our sanitation systems here in the United States.

Ms. SUTTON. Representative GARAMENDI, if you'll yield just a moment, the name of the bill, just to set the record very clear, is Stop American Jobs from Going Down the Drain Act. The whole point of that bill is when we are building our infrastructure, our water and sewer systems, as you point out, that really need to be built in this country, and of course it would put people to work, it would help our communities, spur our economy; and if we do it using U.S.-manufactured goods and iron and steel, which is what the bill would require, then we put even more people to work while we're strengthening our community. So it's the Stop American Jobs from Going Down the Drain Act.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I appreciate your correction of my characterization of the bill. Nonetheless, it's a great piece of legislation; and it's part of the Make It In America agenda, using our tax money, in this case to build the sanitation systems, the water systems, and requiring that that money be used to buy American-made equipment.

I have a bill that would do the same thing for solar and wind programs—wind turbines and solar, as well as for trains, buses and the like. It's our tax money; use it to buy American-made equipment. That's part of the Democratic agenda. And it works. I can give some examples a little later. I do want to thank you because there is nobody working harder in this entire Capitol building—Democrat, Republican, or the Senate—than you are in rebuilding the

manufacturing center of America, the great State of Ohio.

Now, Texas is a little far from Ohio, but you've got a few things going for you in Texas. Let me introduce SHEILA JACKSON LEE. Thank you for joining us once again.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. It is a delight to have been here with the gentlelady from Ohio. We have worked together closely, as I have with the gentleman from New York. I always want to ask him how his fair constituents are dealing. They have some serious mountains to climb, if you will, with their recent hurricane, a very unusual set of circumstances. We joined together to allow those communities to come back. Wouldn't that be a perfect investment of rebuilding infrastructure.

Mr. GARAMENDI, let me thank you for your long-standing history of putting things back together. I'm not going to call you the Humpty-Dumpty man, but recognizing that we can put America back together and make it in America. Let me share some anecdotal uniqueness to this whole question of make it in America. I hope everybody had a wonderful Thanksgiving. It's a special holiday where we find time to say thanks. I heard that the gentleman from New York might have been giving away a ham, made in America. And I know the people who received the ham were grateful for it.

I had the opportunity to work with those, we had over 800 turkeys—made in America—to be able to give to seniors and families. The joy was, of course, that it was in the giving. But more importantly, it was a product that we made from start to finish. Yes, it's food. As we went down the aisles of many grocery stores, since the highlight of that season is eating, people were buying goods in most instances that were made in America. And they bought them.

And then, of course, that famous Friday that we can now tout to be the best Friday over a number of years, certainly 2010; \$52 billion was spent by Americans in many instances on the electronic goods that were made in America. Steve Jobs is no longer with us, but he created that infrastructure of technology and software and the sophistication of pretty things that many Americans went to buy, some \$7 billion over 2010. And the studies indicated that—and that's all right to my good friends out there—that Americans were buying first for themselves those electronic items that they wanted to have for this holiday season.

□ 1940

As I begin to look at legislation to talk about jobs, I'm going to try to make the energy industry a little bit more friendly. And we'll be introducing legislation that talks about creating jobs in that industry, but working in the environmental aspect of it—fixing the coastline, for example.

As you well know, we have suffered through Hurricanes Rita, Katrina, Ike

and the deterioration of the coastline, so if somebody wants to stop us from going down the drain, I want to stop us from a disappearing coastline. I want you to have the beautiful beaches, whether it is in Alabama and Louisiana and Texas, Florida. Those coastlines have been deteriorating. We can find work. Individuals can have work in fixing the beautiful coastlines. Even in South Carolina, I know that the gentleman wants the coastline to be fixed. So there is not a lack of opportunity-to-fix work.

I just heard my good friend from Massachusetts in the Rules Committee indicate that there are bridges in the State of Massachusetts—my good friend, Mr. MCGOVERN—that are older than some States and that they need to be fixed. And that would be a sharing of the wealth to many, many different districts and States if we were to engage, as the President wanted us to do, to look at how we do the infrastructure.

But making it in America is happening. Right now, in the Carolinas, a young lady is bringing her company back from Sri Lanka, and she is using the textile industries—I don't have its full name, but it begins with "Mic"—using the textile industry to now make her product.

So I came today to say that I have hope. I'm an optimist, and many of the economists that we've been listening to—Jeffrey Sachs, for example, and Mr. Spence, who I think I heard in the last couple of days, has indicated that we worry too much about the deficit and the debt, not to ignore it but we really should be worrying about investing in America, rebuilding, make it in America, investing in infrastructure, creating jobs. And Americans will do what they did on last Friday, November 25, and they went out and they bought goods, by and large, made in America.

Let's do more of that. Let's have the incentives that they need. And, by the way, let's add the small business component to it. We had the buy from a small business on Saturday. These small businesses are in America. And if you support a small business, you support one or two or three or four employees.

So I am grateful, as I said. I'm going to do this coastline bill. I can see just persons for eons being put to work. I can see moneys going in to reduce the deficit. We'll join that with the drain, if you will, or the infrastructure for our sewage and wastewater. It comes under homeland security, by the way. We have to protect that. The infrastructure of security provides jobs as well.

I want to close on this note, which sound as if it's not tied in, but it is. It really is tied in. We have, in the Thanksgiving backdrop, was the acknowledgment—I'm not going to call it failure—by the supercommittee that they could not complete their task. Let me, on the record—I have said it in public settings—thank the colleagues

that accepted the challenge. But I want to say to my colleagues, let us not be nonoptimistic. Let us not be unhappy or disappointed or sad. Frankly, the job of the Congress is to formulate the vision going forward on behalf of the American people.

Let me tell you why I see we have been given an opportunity. Some people only talk about defense. I talk about 46 million Americans that are on SNAP. Here's our chance. We can take the works of a Jeffrey Sachs. We can take the works of Mr. Spence, who talks about infrastructure investment. We can find these long-term cuts of a trillion dollars, leaving out Medicare and Social Security and Medicaid, and we can find them in a way that talks about Bush tax cuts but has a thoughtful way of looking at tax reform, and then we can put our vision forward that includes making it in America.

My friends, we make defense products in America. I don't want to be a war promoter—I want our troops home—but I believe in military preparedness. Those are jobs. We have a year to do it. We can throw off the shackles of partisanship and thoughtfully put forward a legislative initiative which the President will not veto if there is a plan that includes deficit reduction. Don't be afraid of doing it on jobs.

So I'm willing to say we have been given an opportunity, just like my Cougars are being given an opportunity for a championship this coming weekend at the University of Houston, which will, by the way, create a lot of revenue with folks coming in from all over.

But we have been given an opportunity. And I am glad that we're here on the floor to point out that it is not the end, but it is the beginning. I simply ask there be friends on the other side of the aisle that will join us in revenue, job creation, deficit reduction, revenue, job creation. We can pass these bills. We can join the Senate. We can do the payroll tax relief for a little bit and the unemployment, but we can create jobs.

I thank the gentleman for allowing me to participate with you. I'm excited about the legislation that my colleagues have. I know I have worked with Mr. TONKO for all that he has done in the legislative initiative and, also, you. Thank you so very much.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Thank you very much. You are always on top of the issues and you're always so very, very correct. SHEILA JACKSON LEE, thank you for the enormous amount of work you have done for your constituents in the city of Houston.

You mentioned the supercommittee. We ought to spend at least a few moments on that. Everybody says it was a failure and they did not achieve the goal that was set out; however, the public needs to know that the legislation that set up the supercommittee actually reduced the deficit of the United States by \$2.1 trillion. A \$2.1

trillion reduction in the deficit in the legislation that established the supercommittee. One trillion of that is already going into place. The other \$1.1 trillion, it was the specific task of the supercommittee to try to find out if there was a better way to make the cuts, or adding revenue. They were unable to put the revenue together, but the cuts remain, and those are going to go forward.

You're quite correct, Ms. JACKSON LEE, that we do have the next 13 months, almost 14 months, to figure out a better way. Maybe it's revenue or less cuts. Maybe it's different cuts that are currently across the board in the Defense Department as well as in the discretionary funding. But we have a chance to do that. We have time to do that. It's not all lost. The deficit has been reduced. Now we need to do it in a smarter way, one that actually promotes American jobs, puts people to work, and creates more jobs and manufacturing in America.

Mr. TONKO, you come from a State that really started the great American Industrial Revolution and an area in which it actually began, the Hudson River Valley, so why don't we carry on our conversation here. You were talking about research, or take it wherever you would like to go.

Mr. TONKO. Absolutely. Let me just respond to the absolute clear focus of our friend, the gentlewoman from Texas, and for the strength of Texas. Representative JACKSON LEE is constantly talking about the opportunities to make it in America, but she cited, also, the flood damage in my district, in the Mohawk Valley, the Schoharie Valley of upstate New York.

Sometimes we will sit around and try to tout the effect of infrastructure for our job growth. There are different ways to express the economic development quotient related to infrastructure, the traditional roads and bridges, but then broadband and our grid system for our electric utilities, what role does it play?

□ 1950

Well, sometimes the best expression is done when that is taken from you. And when roads and bridges were washed away, we saw immediately what the effect was on the regional economy—and therefore the State economy—and then we're all connected one to another so that the national economy hurts through the ravages of flood waters that impacted this district, some would say with 500-year storm impact.

What did that mean? It meant that you couldn't haul milk that was processed, produced on these farms; and you could not ship products being manufactured. It stopped the economic viability of a district and of a region. So it's important for us to look at those bridges that measure in deficient form. We need to make certain that we have state-of-the-art infrastructure and broadband. We began to talk about this

with the space race of the sixties; we unleashed untold amounts of investment in technology that enabled us to stretch opportunity here. Think of the rotary phone that's now moved all the way up to what is a changing telephone by the week. And that all happened because of an investment in the intellect of this Nation.

So the intellectual capacity of this Nation has been an inspiration to not only this country but to folks around the world where the quality of life was raised simply by the inventive qualities of American workers. And so that's what we're calling for here. The Democrats of the House of Representatives believe in investing in the worker and in research. Research equals jobs, and research equals opportunities. The intellectual capacity that was developed here, I'm told by the most recent former energy minister of Denmark, influenced the turnaround of thinking in Denmark where they transitioned their economy, created energy-innovative outcomes, all inspired by patents coming from the United States of America. So we have that intellect.

We talk about manufacturing as a base. We saw the exodus of manufacturing jobs to the millions—to the millions. We're still perched highest on the list for manufacturing jobs; but if we allow that trend where we were disinterested, paid no attention to manufacturing and agriculture, if we allow that to continue, we will sink as an economy. What we need to do is now bring the focus back to manufacturing and to agriculture. The focus was totally on the service economy, and there more narrowly to the financial services. We know what happened.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Would the gentleman pause for just a moment.

Mr. TONKO. Absolutely.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. You're saying something that is just so inspirational, and I just want to add these two points: one, we are still the greatest and largest economic engine in the world in spite of China, in spite of Russia and in spite of India, our good friends. We're the largest, still percolating along.

Second, when we've had our difficulties in the past, there have been recessions in the fifties, post-World War II, on into our good friends both former Presidents Ford and Carter, as you well know for those who read the history books we had some moments, but the reason why we are in troubling waters that people can't seem to comprehend, they just need to read, we never had a euro.

We never had Europe in the state that it is presently in. And when the markets were troubled on Monday—it was Monday, even post—I think Monday they percolated, but when they were troubled, they were looking at Europe. And so if we get obsessed with other than what you're saying about how we can get back in the game at the peak that we want to be, we don't take

in the great picture. And that great picture is our markets are not necessarily troubled about how we're percolating on.

We need to do better. We need to create jobs. But they're international markets, and they're troubled by the euro, which I never agreed with. I would just say, let's understand that so we can do our business here in the United States and focus on the American people, tend to the markets, but go ahead and invest and realize that the markets are interrelated. We can overcome that by doing exactly what the gentleman from New York has said, make it in America.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Ms. JACKSON LEE, you've talked about the investments; you've talked about the international aspects of our economy. Mr. TONKO, you were so correct when you talk about what happens when those infrastructures are not there.

Now, in the American Jobs Act, which we ought to be working on and passing, there is \$50 billion over and above the ongoing money. This is new money, additional money, that would be immediately available to restore the coastal areas of the United States, to rebuild the infrastructure and those areas that have been hard hit by the floods of this year, to improve the 100-year-old-plus bridges in America. Those are all things that we need to move our economy.

Ms. SUTTON from Ohio talked earlier about the sanitation and water systems. Each and every one of these should be framed in such a way as to create American jobs, not just the construction jobs but the rest of the story, which is the concrete, the steel, the bolts, the pumps. All of those things that go into the infrastructure can and should be American made if we have a policy.

Now, on the floor here 3 weeks ago, we were talking about this; and our colleague from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) brought something to the floor that just blew me away. She brought a document that was prepared in 1788 by George Washington, and it was a manufacturing policy for America. He told Hamilton, who was then the Secretary of the Treasury, to go out and to develop eight steps for an American manufacturing policy.

So this is not new in America, folks. We need a manufacturing policy in America. We call it Make It in America. It's a tax policy, an educational policy, an infrastructure policy, and it is an international trade policy where we don't give it away, but we require fair trade—not free trade—fair trade. These are American manufacturing policies of today. Thank you, George Washington, for setting us on the course. We need to continue it.

Mr. TONKO. Absolutely. I hear in your statement the wisdom of sound planning. We need that for a government to be smart and efficient, which is the call by the general public. We want smart investment from our government. Ask any competitor out there

in the global economy. They are competing against industries that are being co-invested in by their native lands. There are co-investments with governments and their private sector, and we're moving in the other direction.

So a couple of things come to mind here. I participated this past weekend in Small Business Saturday. And the spirit I detected was a leap of faith, a sound leap of faith, by many small business leaders who said, I want to offer a service, I'm going to put my creative genius to work. I'm going to make my commitment to community a response here that's tangible.

I saw a lot of belief in the American public, a belief in the American system; and it offers a warm and fuzzy, cozy personalized relationship. People come in; they're known when they walk into the shop; they see the creative flair that's been introduced into that small business. I also see more technically savvy qualities that are engaged in the district I represent with a lot of start-ups, incubators, again, another leap of good faith but needing an investment, a co-partnering with government, especially in a very tenuous economy where there's still a lot of guesswork. We need to be there to remove some of that risk. That is so critically important.

Representative GARAMENDI, you mentioned earlier the fact that my district is that donor district to the Erie Canal/Barge Canal, which was the westward movement that triggered an industrial revolution. These mill towns that were given birth to by the canal became the epicenters of invention and innovation—manufacturing towns and mill towns that had blue collar workers coming up with tremendously clever ideas.

And for people to throw up their arms and say manufacturing then is what it was, it was our greatness, it's gone today, nothing could be farther from the truth. What is the challenge today to a sophisticated society like the American society is that while we have a number of product lines that we developed through our decades of manufacturing, the challenge to a sophisticated society is to build the products that are in demand today.

And if we believe that every product that's ever required by society has been conceived, engineered, designed and manufactured, then the story is over. But if we believe, as so many of us do believe, that we can be the wizards of those new products and we develop it by investing in ideas and investing in research, then we build those products that are now the step up, if you will.

□ 2000

That's where we are with our policy initiatives as a Democratic Caucus in the House of Representatives. Make it in America by embracing the intellectual capacity of this Nation and holding fast to innovation, entrepreneurs,

and the manufacturing of today, spun up to a new level, that's America at her greatest moment.

Mr. GARAMENDI. If I might interrupt you for just a moment. Every hour we're here we're joined by men and women who are working hard on behalf of the American people. The stenographers taking down our words here deserve a praise of thanksgiving; not that our words are so worthwhile to put into the American RECORD, but they do it, nonetheless, and I want to thank them for their good work, and for the staff behind us as we go through this hour.

Mr. TONKO. Absolutely. Let me just, if you'll suffer an interruption, or yield, please. Representative GARAMENDI, I absolutely endorse what you just said. They are devoted. They are an essential part of this body to introduce all of the statements into the annals of history, making certain that statements that might inspire the sort of progress that is required by this Nation right now—they provide an awesome, awesome task.

Mr. GARAMENDI. If I might take up, after interrupting you, some of the things that you were talking about. Down through the years, from the very earliest days of this country, there has been a joining of the government and the private sector to accomplish, really, the building of America. And it's been done in many, many ways.

I was startled and surprised and frankly, very, very happy when Ms. SCHAKOWSKY brought that document in from George Washington's administration about the establishment of industrial policy that placed the American government in synchronization with the then-new manufacturing program industries in America.

You talked about the mill towns. They didn't just happen. They happened because there was a government policy working with them, those entrepreneurs, to create these new businesses, these new jobs. And down through the centuries, more than 2½, almost 2½ now, we have been able to use this synergy, this government working with the American public, the private sector, to create this incredible country we call America and really, to create the American Dream that all of us possess or have participated in.

Today, we're in a discussion, if you will, with the American public about whether to continue that coordination of the public governments—State, local, Federal governments—working to achieve a goal in the private sector. There's a different vision out there that basically says, get out of the way. Get government away and things will go well. Eliminate all regulation, eliminate all of the programs, and let the free market do it.

It's never worked, and the proof of it is found in the first decade of this century. In the first decade of this century, that philosophy of push government aside, deregulate, reduce taxes, and get government out of the way actually created a situation of the Great

Recession and no jobs; in fact, 8 million American jobs lost.

We need to go back to the policies that actually created growth in America, the policies of Franklin Roosevelt, carried out by Truman and Eisenhower. Even Ronald Reagan and Lyndon Johnson carried out the very basic policies that, working together, we can build a great country.

Mr. TONKO. You're absolutely right. And I believe, as you just indicated, our history, our American history is replete with the soundness of government planning and policies that incorporated investments from the public sector. And it made us strong. It retained our strength. It was a sustainable outcome. And the way of the world today is other nations are doing that with their private sector co-investing with them.

And when you look at the scenario of threats to cut some very valuable programs, you know you're going to place our businesses at risk. And if there's anything I hear from my middle class that is disgruntled with Washington is that they're not against people making money. They're not against that.

They're concerned, and they're deeply upset by the undue influence that a few, a growing few, most powerful have on the process. They see it as insatiable greed. They see it as a rejection of what worked in the past, where people shared the wealth, shared by investing in America's middle class, which is that intellectual capacity, is that innovative spirit, is that potential for the next generation of jobs. And that's where our strength lies, and that's why they're upset. The undue influence has caused this insatiable greed that produces a drain on the middle class of this country and, therefore, reduces the number of jobs that we could possibly have in this Nation.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Before I turn to my colleague from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) who has just joined us, I want to pull up this chart. If only you had had this next to you while you just made this statement about the change in the nature of America's wealth. This chart has become, I think, rather famous—or infamous, I think, is a better word.

The blue line here is a chart that shows the growth in the wealth, the income of the top 1 percent of Americans. And down here is what the rest of Americans have had over the last 20 years or so. What we've seen is basically a flat-lining for the middle class, and certainly for the poor—no improvement, or very, very little improvement, in their situation. This is the 99 percent here. This is the 1 percent.

This is the anger that you now see on the streets of America, and it's exactly what you were talking about, Mr. TONKO, with a few, 1 percent of the American public, getting an ever increasing share of the American income and wealth, creating a bifurcated society, one with very few that are extremely wealthy, and the rest that are actually growing poorer.

With that, I'd like to turn to a woman from the great Midwest, the State of Ohio that is enduring this exact hollowing out of the American middle class.

MARCY KAPTUR, thank you so much for joining us, and thank you for years of work representing your part of what was once the great industrial strength of America. I know that you want to share with us tonight some thoughts that you shared with me earlier this day, as you went home, as you talked to the men and women in Cleveland. Please.

Ms. KAPTUR. Thank you very much, Congressman GARAMENDI, for your leadership in bringing us together so often. You are absolutely unrelenting, and that's the spirit that is America, so we thank you for your time tonight.

And Congressman TONKO of New York, your steadfast service here in representing a State that has some similar situations to Ohio's in the industrial and agricultural heartland of our country. It's really a special privilege to be here tonight with both of you.

This morning, one of my first visits was with a company in Avon Lake, Ohio, PolyOne. This is a company that makes products in America. Yes, it's a global player, but its innovation center is in Ohio. Hundreds and hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of jobs are associated with its plastic products, made both out of traditional petroleum-based inputs as well as the new carbohydrate economy that you can see developing, and it was really quite exciting.

We know that real wealth is created in our country when we make goods in America, when we make it in America. I think the problem over the last several years has been that if you travel to any city in America and you look at the tallest building, what are they? Are they the firms making things or are they merely, as I saw in Michigan recently, a gigantic bank whose headquarters is on Wall Street, a bank that just got bailed out by the American people?

I stopped my car and I looked at that building, and then I looked at the devastation of the communities around that particular part of Michigan, and I thought, what's wrong with this picture? Basically, this institution has sucked up the wealth of neighborhood after neighborhood and left rubble in its way.

They're not being held accountable. Yet I see companies like PolyOne trying to make it in a global economy with a very unfair set of trade practices—closed markets around the world, currency manipulation, intellectual property theft.

□ 2010

I look at what's happening with competitors, with competition to U.S. industry, and you have to say to those patriots who are making goods in America, we stand with you. We should

be rewarding those companies. We should be making more goods in our country.

I wanted to just add a word about the automotive industry. There were those in this Chamber that voted against the refinancing of the automotive industry. Without that industry, this country would not have a defense base, and we would not be a great industrial power. And now I see in our region of the country—I was just at Chrysler Fiat. They announced billions of dollars of investment. There's going to be over a thousand more people hired at their main production facility in Toledo, Ohio. Chrysler Jeep makes the Wrangler and the Liberty and likely vehicles that will follow on.

The feeling inside that plant of people who have given their lives to keeping America competitive and to manufacturing a label that is known throughout the world, it was a wonderful day to be there. And I was reminded, and I said very frankly, You know, there were 170 Members of Congress that didn't think you should be here and didn't think that this company should be here. And the company has paid back the loan that was made, and now we're going to have good jobs by making goods in America. So I wanted to share those experiences.

I feel bad that we have a country where certain financial firms that have, totally speculative, have brought us to this point. But I stand with those who have weathered the storm and who are now hiring and trying to move this economy back where we know it can be.

I was very proud to be a Member, as are those who are here with us tonight, to vote for that refinancing of the automotive industry and with its procurement from suppliers—whether it's plastics, whether it's glass, whether it's fibre, whether it's textiles, whatever, that's helping to lift this economy to where last week, on the day after Thanksgiving, retail sales in our country went up about 16.7 percent, I guess. It shows that people have more spending power. That's what we should be doing. We should be using our power here to lift those industries that can really make goods in our country and help recreate a strengthened middle class.

Mr. GARAMENDI. We have maybe 10 more minutes here.

You talked about the purchasing power of Americans. On January 1, unless we act, American workers will lose about \$1,500 of purchasing power. We must renew and continue the reduction in the Social Security tax that American workers are paying and businesses are paying. And by the way, it's totally paid for by those superwealthy—a 3.5 percent increase on their taxes over a million dollars a year. So it's totally paid for. It's part of the American Jobs Act.

I was just talking to the gentleman from New York, and it came about because of what you said about those

men and women that have spent their lifetime working here in America. And I want to end on this between the three of us.

We Democrats have made a promise to America. It's not a contract. It is a promise. It's a pledge. And that pledge is to protect Social Security and Medicare, two of the most fundamental American programs, both of which are at risk of being significantly modified or, in the case of Medicare, destroyed by our Republican colleagues.

I want to make it very, very clear and get the comments from my two colleagues here about our commitment to these programs.

Social Security is the bedrock foundation for every American's retirement; and given the way the stock market gyrates because of those financial institutions and the games they play, you can't count on your 401(k).

But here's the promise to America from the Democrats: you will always be able to count on Social Security. If they want to fight about it, then this is the fight we will have and we will win.

On Medicare, millions of seniors are not in poverty today and alive today because they have Medicare insurance, a fundamental American program.

Mr. TONKO.

Mr. TONKO. I think you highlight some of the major differences and disagreements that have highlighted the debate on the Hill here in Washington between the two parties. And I would suggest it's probably some of the reasons that the supercommittee could not come to consensus, because we have called upon an outcome that is fair, balanced, and bold—that we will not allow for the price tag on further continuing tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires to be paid for by cuts to Medicare. There were those who fought Social Security at its inception and have fought it for 76 years and want to deny it.

It's about making certain that there is an underpinning of support for our elderly as they grow into what is a longer life span. We have to have measures in place that enable there to be a quality of life that provides economic vitality, economic balance for those who move into their retirement years.

I think that when we look at some of the measurements of Medicare, for instance, where it's about 5 percent of the GDP, much more modest than private sector health care is to GDP, and here's a program that has worked tremendously well. Can it be made better? Absolutely. That's where we stand. Make it better. Make it more secure. Make it more sustainable.

But do not deny the masses of this country who have prospered, who have been strengthened, who were lifted by programs like Medicare and Social Security. And I am proud to serve in the caucus that, as a conference, has said we stand for keeping these programs in place, strengthening them, not denying them, which I think is a major disagreement on the Hill.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. TONKO, you are absolutely correct. This is where we stand. This is where we fight.

Ms. KAPTUR.

Ms. KAPTUR. Thank you so much, Congressman GARAMENDI and Congressman TONKO.

I just wanted to say on Social Security and Medicare, I'm proud to stand with my Democratic colleagues. Social Security is an earned benefit, and it's one that belongs to the American people. We all know its power, not just to allow seniors to live a decent life in their retirement years. But also it's power to lift the economy because seniors spend, mainly on their grandchildren. And they move those dollars into the economy. You watch with that cost-of-living increase, which I'm very happy about, next year, and the fact that the Medicare offset will not be so great that seniors will have extra buying power and they will watch every penny.

I am just so proud to be a part of a tradition of the Democratic Party that has fought for Social Security and has fought for Medicare, not just for the few but for all. And we have made the country a better country as a result.

So I think it's fair to say that, yes, it is true the Republican Party has fought Social Security. Can't they find something else? I don't know what the problem is when the vast majority of the American people, I think like 99.99 percent of the American people, agree with this. I don't know what their problem is. Maybe they're not living in reality most of the time.

I am just very proud to be a part of this tradition along with my colleagues and to say to our senior citizens that next year will be a better year than this year.

My hat's off to Franklin Roosevelt and Frances Perkins and all of the people that fought back in the 1930s to make this program part of the American way of life.

Mr. GARAMENDI. And then carried on in the 1960s with Medicare.

We have much to be thankful for as Americans, don't we?

Mr. TONKO. We do.

Mr. GARAMENDI. We have much to be thankful for. We are thankful for those men and women that served here in this House over the years that brought us to where we are—the world's strongest, greatest country with the greatest opportunity. Even with all of the troubles we have today, it's still a country with great opportunity.

Mr. TONKO. Absolutely.

Mr. GARAMENDI. It's a country in which the American Dream lives, and we have the obligation to make sure that it's there for future generations.

Mr. TONKO, we're going to do a rapid 30 seconds around.

Mr. TONKO. We've had a wonderful hour of discussion, and I give thanks for the wonderful investments that have made us this strong Nation. In conclusion, if we invest in the middle

class of this Nation, our greatest days lie ahead of us. We have a chance to be continually investing in a way that allows us to make it in America and allow for our intellectual capacity to reign supreme. It's been our history. It's our DNA. Let's make it happen. I'm optimistic about the tomorrows for this country with the appropriate investments.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Ms. KAPTUR.

Ms. KAPTUR. America has always been a Nation of great promise, a Nation of great hope; and I like to quote in my speeches the last four letters of the word "American" are "I can." It's positive energy. It's promise that we all work toward, and the American people know it. It's great to be a part of a party of hope and promise for the American people.

I say what a pleasure it has been to join my colleagues here this evening.

Mr. GARAMENDI. With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back with great thanks to my colleagues and for the opportunity to be a Member of Congress.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3463, TERMINATING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN FUND AND ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 527, REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2011; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3010, REGULATORY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2011

Mr. WOODALL, from the Committee on Rules (during the Special Order of Mr. GARAMENDI), submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-296) on the resolution (H. Res. 477) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3463) to reduce Federal spending and the deficit by terminating taxpayer financing of presidential election campaigns and party conventions and by terminating the Election Assistance Commission; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 527) to amend chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Regulatory Flexibility Act), to ensure complete analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3010) to reform the process by which Federal agencies analyze and formulate new regulations and guidance documents, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. SUTTON (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of travel delays.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, November 30, 2011, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3973. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting Selected Acquisition Reports for the quarter ending June 30; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3974. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulations Supplement: Fire-Resistant Fiber for Production of Military Uniforms (DFARS Case 2011-D021) (RIN: 0750-AH22) received November 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3975. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting first report on the Responsible Redeployment of U.S. Armed Forces from Iraq; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3976. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulations Supplement: Simplified Acquisition Threshold for Humanitarian or Peacekeeping Operations (DFARS Case 2011-D032) (RIN: 0750-AH29) received November 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3977. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a study pursuant to the Conference Report of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3978. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulations Supplement: Representation Relating to Compensation of Former DoD Officials (DFARS Case 2010-D020) (RIN: 0750-AG99) received November 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3979. A letter from the Deputy Director, Office of Labor-Management Standards, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Labor Organization Officer and Employee Reports (RIN: 1215-AB74) (RIN: 1245-AA01) received October 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

3980. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Frequency Regulation Compensation in the Organized Wholesale Power Markets [Docket Nos.: RM11-7-000 and AD10-11-000; Order No. 755] received October 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3981. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 11-36, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3982. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 11-38, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of